

5295
FTR

**Connecticut Council of Police Unions
AFSCME Council 15 AFLCIO
700 West Johnson Avenue Suite 305
Cheshire, CT 06410**

March 2, 2010

Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

Testimony of Thomas R. Carozza, Sr. in Support of:

Raised Bill No. 5295

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPALITIES AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS.

The downturn in the economy and the resultant drying up of revenue streams to support the needs of the citizens of our State and nation require innovative measures by both government and the public labor force. Budgets are in deficit in spite of concessions, cutbacks in programs, and reductions in staffing. Now is the time to take the next steps to streamline expenses through the implementation of programs that research has shown to reduce costs.

We believe that Raised Bill No. 5295 is one of those opportunities. By offering municipalities and other political sub-divisions of the state *the option* of joining the state health care pool, local governments and their employees, *with due diligence and through collective bargaining*, may find that pooling would reduce costs while maintaining the benefit levels required to recruit and sustain a professional and dedicated work force.

As proposed, Raised Bill No. 5295 is not a mandate, but would only enable the municipal employers and employees to make their own collective decision on what path to take, and we ask that you consider passage of this legislation.

trc